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Latinos in Boston: Poverty, Income, Education, Employment, and Housing

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Latinos in Boston

Poverty, Income, Education, Employment, and Housing

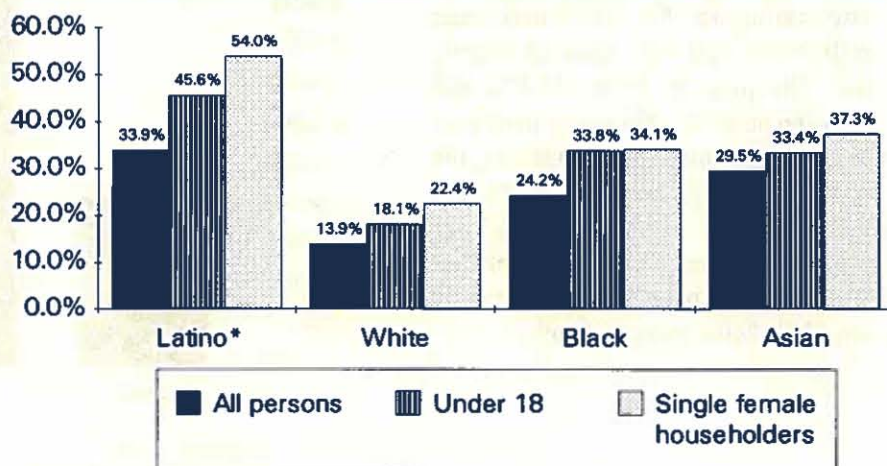
Part two of a series of profiles of Latinos in Massachusetts completed with support from The Boston Foundation

The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy was established at the University of Massachusetts Boston in December of 1989. The creation of the Gastón Institute responds to the need for better understanding of the experience and conditions of life of Latinos in the Commonwealth. Its purpose is to conduct research about the Latino population in Massachusetts and to develop the kind of information and analysis necessary for the development of sound public policy and for the effective participation of the Latino population in public policy development in the Commonwealth. In an effort to facilitate the access to vital information about Latinos to various audiences, and with support from the Boston Foundation, the Gastón Institute has produced a series of basic demographic profiles for selected cities in the Commonwealth based on the 1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing (Massachusetts Summary Tape File 3A, produced by the U.S. Bureau of the Census). These profiles are but one part of a broader initiative to disseminate the 1990 U.S. Census and to address other relevant aspects of the social and economic situation of Latinos in the Commonwealth.



Latinos had the largest proportion of persons with income below the poverty level, 33.9%. The poverty rate for Latinos is approximately two and one-half times that of whites (13.9%) and higher than the rate for blacks (24.2%) and Asians (29.5%). Of those Latinos under the age of 18, 45.6% had income below the poverty level. In particular, the rate of poverty was greatest among those Latino children under 11 years of age.

Boston: Select Poverty Rates by Race and Ethnicity in 1989



Universe: Persons for whom poverty status is determined and families headed by single females
*Latino may be of any race

Boston: Poverty Status by Age and Race and Ethnicity in 1989

Persons Below Poverty	Latino *	Poverty Rate	Total**	Poverty Rate	White	Poverty Rate	Black	Poverty Rate	Asian	Poverty Rate
Total below poverty level	19,664	33.9%	102,092	18.7%	47,209	13.9%	34,599	24.2%	8,426	29.5%
Under 5 years	2,714	45.7%	9,739	27.9%	2,666	16.6%	4,749	35.3%	631	34.7%
5 years	426	42.9%	1,647	28.3%	456	17.6%	762	34.5%	150	39.7%
6 to 11 years	2,931	48.3%	10,475	30.3%	2,928	20.6%	4,937	35.0%	695	33.1%
12 to 17 years	2,304	42.8%	8,511	26.8%	2,163	17.3%	4,216	30.9%	666	31.6%
18 to 64 years	10,852	28.7%	62,334	16.5%	32,588	13.3%	18,015	20.0%	5,561	27.7%
65 to 74 years	333	29.2%	5,028	14.2%	3,036	11.3%	1,295	19.9%	464	32.6%
75 years and over	104	15.9%	4,358	16.9%	3,372	15.7%	625	20.6%	259	37.7%
Total	57,980		545,764		339,407		143,045		28,579	

Universe: Persons for whom poverty is determined
*Latino may be of any race
**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

Boston: Poverty Status by Family Type, by Race and Ethnicity, with Presence and Age of Children, in 1989

Families	Latino *	Poverty rate	Total **	Poverty rate	White	Poverty rate	Black	Poverty rate	Asian	Poverty rate
Income below poverty level	4,176	31.7%	17,598	15.0%	6,094	8.7%	7,434	21.9%	1,435	23.6%
Married-couple family:	803	13.3%	4,863	6.8%	2,135	4.4%	1,206	8.7%	980	21.3%
With related children under 18 years	681	16.7%	2,981	9.4%	957	5.3%	912	10.8%	631	24.2%
No related children under 18 years	122	6.3%	1,882	4.8%	1,178	3.8%	294	5.4%	349	17.5%
Male householder, no wife present:	194	15.3%	970	11.0%	359	7.6%	350	12.2%	99	18.8%
With related children under 18 years	108	19.3%	445	15.6%	111	11.2%	184	13.1%	72	41.4%
No related children under 18 years	86	12.1%	525	8.9%	248	6.7%	166	11.4%	27	7.7%
Female householder, no husband present:	3,179	54.0%	11,765	31.1%	3,600	22.4%	5,878	34.1%	356	37.3%
With related children under 18 years	3,046	60.8%	10,554	44.4%	3,047	42.2%	5,311	41.3%	316	54.0%
No related children under 18 years	133	15.1%	1,211	8.6%	553	6.2%	567	13.0%	40	10.8%
Total Families	13,184		117,656		69,723		33,922		6,082	

Universe: Families

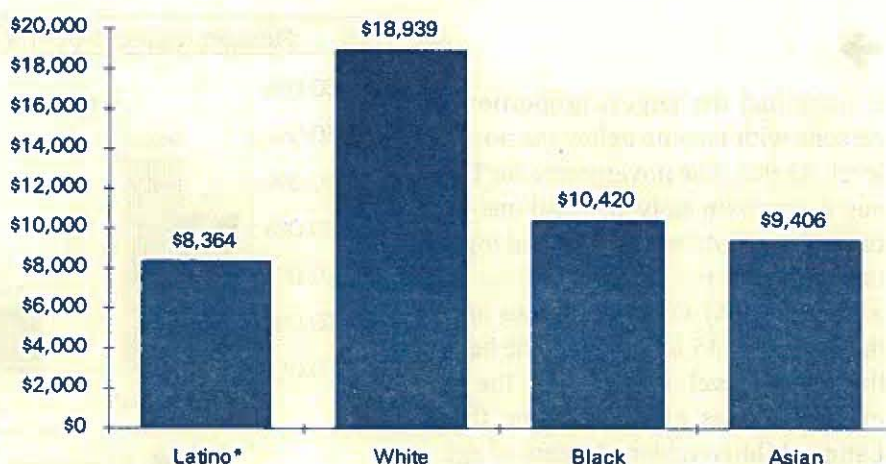
*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



Among Latino families, 31.7% had incomes below the poverty level in 1989, three and one-half times greater than white families (8.7%). Black and Asian families also had high rates of income below the poverty level, 21.9% and 23.6%, respectively. However, in all race and ethnic groups (except Asians), the majority of those families with income below the poverty level were single female householders. For Latino families, 54% of single female households had incomes below the poverty level.

Boston: Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989



Universe: Persons

*Latino may be of any race

Boston: Household Income by Race and Ethnicity in 1989

Household Income	Latino *	Total **	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$5,000	2,290	18,254	9,958	5,250	1,621
\$5,000 to \$9,999	3,119	28,451	17,928	7,499	1,194
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,772	16,829	11,427	3,742	723
\$15,000 to \$24,999	3,686	36,105	23,103	9,304	1,589
\$25,000 to \$34,999	2,550	33,184	22,990	7,421	1,380
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,436	36,967	26,832	7,476	1,232
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,665	34,920	26,295	6,485	1,199
\$75,000 to \$99,999	444	12,358	10,134	1,660	328
\$100,000 and more	264	10,890	9,576	955	195
Total	18,226	227,958	158,243	49,792	9,461

Universe: Households

Median household income in Boston: \$29,180

*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

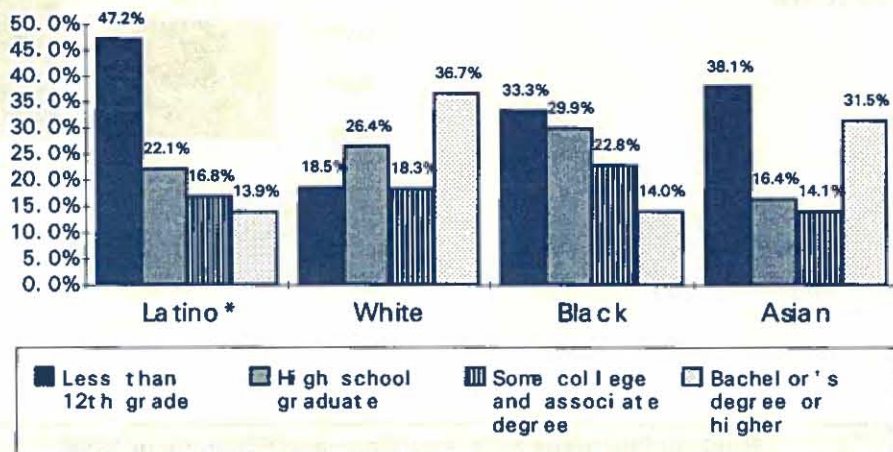


While Massachusetts median household income in 1989 was \$36,952, the median income for Boston was \$29,180. In 1989, the per capita income of Latinos in Boston was \$8,364, lower than any other race or ethnic group. Blacks and Asians had a slightly higher per capita income, \$10,420 and \$9,406, respectively. Whites had the highest per capita income, \$18,939.

In 1990, 47.2% of the Latinos in the city of Boston had not received a high school diploma. This proportion was higher than any other race or ethnic group. At higher levels of education, 16.8% of Latinos attended some college or received an associate degree. However, only 13.9% received a bachelor's or a professional or graduate degree. Overall, the educational attainment of the Latino population lagged the other race or ethnic groups.



Boston: Educational Attainment by Race and Ethnicity in 1990					
Educational Attainment	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than 9th grade	8,490	37,824	18,503	9,379	4,565
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	5,675	51,051	27,526	18,213	1,976
High school graduate	6,643	97,233	65,669	24,782	2,818
Some college, no degree	3,445	51,263	33,553	14,180	1,509
Associate degree	1,590	18,626	12,022	4,695	908
Bachelor's degree	2,384	64,390	53,013	7,525	2,863
Graduate or professional	1,774	45,321	38,087	4,071	2,545
Total	30,001	365,708	248,373	82,845	17,184



Universe: Persons 25 years old and over
 *Latino may be of any race
 **Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

Boston: Employment Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1990

Persons	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Male	20,717	224,715	152,026	48,383	12,543
Employed	13,208	145,962	102,436	28,965	7,214
Unemployed	2,087	15,809	8,345	5,561	732
Armed forces	65	1,111	970	92	25
Not in labor force	5,357	61,833	40,275	13,765	4,572
Civilian Participation Rate	73.8%	72.0%	72.9%	71.4%	63.4%
Unemployment Rate	13.6%	9.7%	7.5%	16.1%	9.2%
Female	22,085	251,560	168,006	58,604	12,088
Employed	10,450	142,742	98,754	31,896	6,218
Unemployed	1,488	10,484	5,317	3,919	398
Armed forces	0	54	34	20	0
Not in labor force	10,147	98,280	63,901	22,769	5,472
Civilian Participation Rate	54.1%	60.9%	61.9%	61.1%	54.7%
Unemployment Rate	12.5%	6.8%	5.1%	10.9%	6.0%
Total	42,802	476,275	320,032	106,987	24,631
Employed	23,658	288,704	201,190	60,861	13,432
Unemployed	3,575	26,293	13,662	9,480	1,130
Armed forces	65	1,165	1,004	112	25
Not in labor force	15,504	160,113	104,176	36,534	10,044
Civilian Participation Rate	63.6%	66.1%	67.1%	65.7%	59.1%
Unemployment Rate	13.1%	8.3%	6.3%	13.5%	7.7%

Universe: Persons 16 years and over
 *Latino may be of any race
 **Total includes Native Americans and Other Races

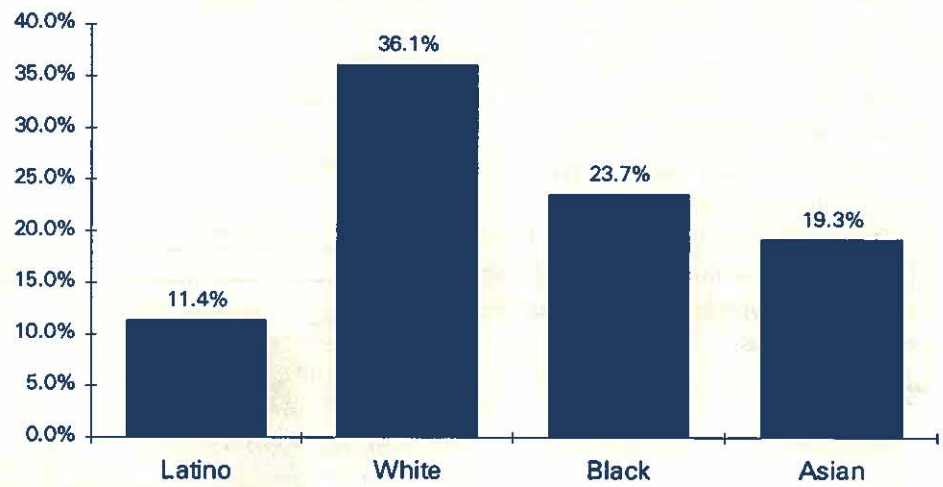


In 1990, Latinos constituted 8.6% of the Boston labor force. Of the 27,233 Latinos in the labor force (employed plus unemployed), 11,938 were females and 15,295 were males. The labor force participation rate for Latino men in 1990 was 73.8%, higher than any other group. However, their unemployment rate was 13.6%; this proportion is lower than for black men, 16.1%, but higher than white men, 7.5%, and Asian men, 9.2%. Latino women, on the other hand, had the lowest labor force participation rate, 54.1%, and the highest unemployment rate, 12.5%.



In 1989, only 11.4% of Latinos households were homeowners, compared to 36.1% of whites, 23.7% of blacks, and 19.3% of Asians householders. The majority of Latino households, 88.6%, rented their dwelling. This was higher than the rate for Latinos in Massachusetts where 82.6% of Latino households are renters.

Boston: Homeowners by Race and Ethnicity in 1989*



Universe: Occupied housing
*In this table, the racial groups do not include Latinos



Of those with a mortgage, 57.1% of Latinos had a mortgage of over \$1,000; only 28.2% of whites, 39.5% of blacks, and 41.0% of Asians had a mortgage over \$1,000.

Boston: Mortgage Status by Race and Ethnicity in 1989

Mortgage Payments	Latino*	Total**	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$300	13	210	158	39	0
\$300 to \$499	28	2,217	1,697	384	91
\$500 to \$999	134	6,463	4,583	1,622	167
\$1,000 or more	365	8,739	6,547	1,780	243
Not mortgaged:	99	11,043	10,195	678	92
Total	639	28,672	23,180	4,503	593

Universe: Specified owner-occupied housing units include only one-family houses, on fewer than 10 acres, without a business or medical office on property

*Latino may be of any race

**Total includes Native Americans and Other Races



Of those renter-occupied housing units, 41.4% of the Latino population paid less than \$500 monthly compared to 31.0% of whites, 44.5% of blacks, and 33.0% of Asians. In 1989, only 7.8% of Latinos paid a monthly rent of over \$1,000, while 14.0% of whites, 7.2% of blacks and 11.4% of Asians paid over \$1,000.

Boston: Amount of Gross Rent by Race and Ethnicity for 1989

Gross Rent per Month	Latino	Total*	White	Black	Asian
Less than \$300	4,134	29,195	15,684	9,849	1,225
\$300 to \$499	2,372	26,243	16,156	7,213	1,355
\$500 to \$999	7,886	81,704	55,346	18,139	4,249
\$1,000 or more	1,219	18,670	14,407	2,766	892
No cash rent	112	1,933	1,448	335	99
Total	15,723	157,745	103,041	38,302	7,820

Universe: Specified renter-occupied housing

*Total includes Native Americans and Other Races